

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

City Council Chambers
March 3, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor Richard Michaud, Chairman
Councilor Nancie Cameron, Vice-Chair
Councilor Don Austin

Member excused: Councilor Matt Gerding

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
Finance Director Scott Smith
Deputy City Clerk Ammy Ramsey

Chairman Michaud called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Cameron made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 3-0.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LOCAL NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS

City Manager Belmore stated that the Mayor had requested a Resolution be drafted to reaffirm the nonpartisan status for the City of Somersworth elections. Belmore informed the Committee that he made some revisions to ensure this Resolution aligned with the City Charter. Belmore also mentioned that if this Resolution is adopted by the full City Council it could be sent to local, regional, and State party offices as suggested by the Mayor.

Councilor Austin stated he has no problem with moving this to Council but has concerns when sending this to the party offices because he does not want people to think we are treading on people's first amendment rights.

Councilor Cameron inquired if there have been any issues with the past few elections which prompted this issue for discussion. Councilor Michaud stated that there may have been and we are doing this to hopefully make it clear that when a person is running in our City Elections that they are running as an individual and not because they are running affiliated with a particular party.

There was discussion pertaining to when the Resolution would be sent to the local, regional, and State party offices. Belmore informed the Committee that the Council could give direction on what to do with the Resolution if adopted., Belmore stated the Committee could schedule another meeting and

invite the Mayor if they have questions and would like to discuss the Resolution before taking any action. The consensus of the Committee was to forward the Resolution to the full Council.

Councilor Austin made a motion to sponsor this Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore gave the Committee a breakdown of City staffing concerning retirement, open positions, and the advantages of staff promotions, hiring in the municipal setting, benefits and other factors relating to retaining employees.

Manager Belmore also mentioned a Cemetery Ordinance being presented at the City Council Meeting on March 11, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Austin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk